

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2012
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Deborah A. Norkavage called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR	DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE	PRESENT
1 ST DISTRICT	JOHN JAREMCHUK, JR.	PRESENT
2 ND DISTRICT	STEVEN BURG	PRESENT
3 RD DISTRICT	ROBERT KACPERSKI	PRESENT
4 TH DISTRICT	CHARLES MCKEWEN	PRESENT
5 TH DISTRICT	JOANN I. PERSONTI	PRESENT
6 TH DISTRICT	RICHARD MOORE	PRESENT
Town Solicitor, Edward McNally – Absent		
Town Manager, John Giles – Present		
Chief of Police, Laura Giles – Present		

Ron Russo, Finance Committee – Present
Amy Olga, Finance Committee – Present
Paul Chalfant, Treasurer - Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2012 Council Meeting with no corrections. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Abstained Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – Abstained, 6th District – Yes, Mayor – Yes

Councilwoman Personiti stated that she abstained because she was not present during the April 12, 2012 meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personiti to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2012 Special Council Meeting with no corrections. The motion was seconded by Councilman McKewen.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-Favor Motion carried

PRESNETATIONS:

At this time Chief Laura Giles and a Member of the Greenhill Lions Club presented aware commendations to a number of Police Officers.

At this time Mayor Norkavage presented Mrs. Amy Olga with Proclamation 12-01 declaring October 12, 2012 as Edward Olga Day in the Town of Elsmere.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item Number 3: The Mayor and Council will consider the expiring terms of Planning Commission Members Mr. Robert Anderson and Mr. Charles Lindell.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to reappoint Mr. Anderson and Mr. Lindell to the Planning Commission their terms to expire June 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-Favor Motion carried

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to appoint Ms. Maryann Skipski to the Planning Commission her term to expire June 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-Favor Motion carried

Item Number 4: The Mayor and Council will consider appointing both Mrs. Amy Olga and Mr. Ronald Russo to the Finance Committee.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to appoint Mrs. Amy Olga and Mr. Ronald Russo to the Finance Committee their terms to expire May 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-Favor Motion carried

Item Number 2: The Mayor and Council will consider reappointing both Mr. John R. Smith and Mrs. Patty Boyd to the Board of Adjustment.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to reappoint Mr. John R. Smith and Mrs. Patty Boyd to the Board of Adjustment their terms to expire June 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-Favor Motion carried

Announcements made by County Councilman Joseph Reda

Councilman Reda announced that New Castle County will begin restoration on Silverbrook Run in Rosemont as well as sewer work. In addition there will be work done on Derrickson Run in Vilone Village to clean out.

Councilwoman Personti asked if New Castle County could come out and do a similar project as Derrickson Run on Chestnut Run on the south side of Kirkwood Hwy because of a similar issue where NCC Special Services stated that debris cannot be removed because the property owners own to the center of the creek so they were denied creek service.

Members of WSFS Bank announced a Fund Raiser for the Olga Family on Saturday, May 12, 2012 where all of the profits go to the Olga Family. She stated that the event will be held at the Moose Lodge on Rt. 13 at 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Tickets are \$35.00 which includes food, beverages and entertainment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consideration for Third and Final Reading as well as Public Hearing of Ordinance 549 As Amended.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to consider Ordinance 549 as Amended for Third and Final Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moore.

Councilwoman Personti asked if crush-and-run would be permitted under this ordinance.

Town Manager John Giles stated that this material would be prohibited by the passing of this ordinance.

A discussion occurred regarding why crush-and-run was undesirable, and it was discussed how it was unappealing.

VOTE: 5-2 Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – Yes, Mayor – Yes

Consideration for Third and Final Reading as well as Public Hearing of Ordinance 552.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Kacperski to consider Ordinance 552 for Third and Final Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

Councilman Kacperski gave a brief overview of the Ordinance.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Consideration for Third and Final Reading as well as Public Hearing of Ordinance 553.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to consider Ordinance 553 for Third and Final Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Re-Consideration for First and Second Reading of Ordinance 554 Revised.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to consider Ordinance 554 for First and Second Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

Councilwoman Personti gave a brief overview of this ordinance.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Appointment of Mr. Robert Nally to the Elsmere Pension Committee.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he has spoken with Mr. Nally who assured him that he is still a resident of the Town.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to appoint Mr. Robert Nally to the Elsmere Pension Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Appointment of a citizen to serve on the Elsmere Pension Committee in accordance with Section 1- (vi) of Resolution 12-01 Revised

Councilwoman Personti suggested appointing Mrs. Elaine Negley of the Greenbrier Homeowners Association; she has also asked that Councilman Jaremchuk reach out to her to see if she is interested.

At this time Town Manager John Giles asked if the Council would consider appointing Ms. Negley during this meeting and if she should not be interested the Council could re-appoint at the next meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to appoint Ms. Elaine Negley to the Elsmere Pension Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Town Manager John Giles stated for the record that Ms. Negley was appointed to fill a position on the committee because no Town Employees currently participate in the retirement plan and that should an employee choose to participate Ms. Negley would no longer be a member and the employee would take her place.

Consideration of Revised Resolution 12-03.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to approve Resolution 12-03 Revised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

Councilman Jaremchuk asked how this resolution would be enforceable if no fines are listed in the resolution.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he believes that the Police would enforce that as a traffic violation.

Chief Laura Giles stated that it would not be enforceable on private property unless a fine was associated with the resolution.

AMENDMENT ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to amend Resolution 12-03 to include a \$50.00 fine for anyone who violates this resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

AMENDMENT VOTE: 6-1 Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – Yes, 6th District – Yes, Mayor – Yes

ORIGINAL VOTE: 6-1 Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – Yes, 6th District – Yes, Mayor – Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Petition 12-09.

Town Manager John Giles gave an overview of Petition 12-09 indicating the background of this petition. The Pickels' are long time residents of the Town and a number of years ago the property suffered a large fire and the structure was completely lost and had to be removed and replaced. The owners applied for a building permit to reconstruct the house on the existing foundation with a basement within a flood fringe which is not allowed. The Town inspected the property and gave the property a Certificate of Occupancy. FEMA conducted a Community Assistance Visit and discovered the Pickel's property was in violation with the Town's Flood Plain Restrictions and ordered the Town to issue a violation to the property owners and require the basement to be filled in or to apply for a variance to the Flood Plain Restrictions. The Board of Adjustment has recommended that the Council approve the variance to the Flood Plain Restrictions.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to approve Petition 12-09 where the petitioner requests a variance to Section 225-22(4) B of the Code of the Town of Elsmere regarding Flood Plain Restrictions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moore.

Mrs. Pamela Pickel stated that when the original house was constructed in 1987 and the basement was permitted to be constructed and that they were never told that it could not have a basement and that in 2006 the property suffered a large fire and it was recommended that the property be demolished and reconstructed, therefore they kept the existing foundation. The Code Enforcement Officer at the Time stated that if they removed the concrete floor in the basement it would be considered a Crawl Space and that it would no longer be considered a basement. They finished the House in 2009 and received a Certificate of Occupancy and that there were at least 4 Code Enforcement

Officers who inspected the property and that they have done everything they were asked during the construction and that they do not believe that they should have to bear the cost of this as well as they are not sure how to do this because the house is currently there. They do believe that this is a hardship that was caused by the Town and that this should be approved.

Town Manager John Giles stated that with the exception of the basement the property meets every flood plain restriction including having all utilities located above the base flood elevation, in addition they have requested this variance at great risk to themselves because the face the possibility of an increased insurance premium if this variance is granted.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

1st District – Yes because of the extreme hardship and the financial impact it would have on the homeowner.

2nd District – Yes because the homeowner has proved a significant hardship

3rd District – Yes for the same reasons raised by Districts 1 & 2

4th District – Yes for the same reasons raised by Districts 1 & 2

5th District – Yes for the same reasons and the fact that the homeowners comply with all other regulations and that the Town has been involved during the entire process and they should not be penalized for this mistake.

6th District – Yes for the same reasons as Districts 1, 2 & 5

Mayor – Yes for the same reasons as Districts 1, 2 & 5.

Town Manager John Giles asked the Mayor and Council if the applicant has proven that this variance will have no adverse affect on the flood fringe in that area.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Councilwoman Personti asked that the Pickels' be refunded any fees they were charged for this variance.

Town Manager John Giles stated that the fee has already been waived for this variance.

Consideration for First and Second Reading of Ordinance 555.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to consider Ordinance 555 for First and Second Reading. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 7-0 All-in-favor Motion carried

Consideration of officially naming the new Dog Park located at 400 Baltimore Avenue.

Mayor Norkavage read the names submitted by the public for review:

Wagging Trails, Pat L. Frantz Dog Park, Al Berry Dog Park, Pooches n' Puddles, Smelly-Stone Park, Sniff and Go, The Mutt Strut, Pawesome Playground, Rovers Run Bark Park, K-9 Romper Room, Faithful Dog Park.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he did not believe that this was the type of park that should be named after a person and absent a decision from council the park would be named the Baltimore Avenue Dog Park.

Councilman Burg asked if anyone in attendance had a suggestion they would like to submit.

Public Works Supervisor Mark Marconi submitted Elsmere Bark Park.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to name the Dog Park the “Elsmere Bark Park”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-1 Motion carried

1st District – No, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – Yes, 5th District – Yes, 6th District – Yes, Mayor – Yes

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Code Enforcement

Town Manager John Giles stated that they are currently working on their 6 month inspection with Fenwick Apartments.

Code Enforcement Officer Daniel Reed stated that they found 85 violations in the common areas and most of those were known violation such as painting and spackling.

Councilman McKewen asked why the 4th District has not had any violations in 2 months when he has spoken with the Code Enforcement Office regarding several violations within his district.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he would make sure that the 4th District is addressed immediately. He then asked council’s opinion on drafting an ordinance regarding Bed Bugs requiring rental property owners exterminate a unit no more than 7 days prior to a new occupation as well as exterminating the entire building at least once a year.

Councilwoman Personti asked if the Department of Health would address that or regulate that.

Code Enforcement Brian Swift stated that they have regulations that are not stringent and that the bugs difficult to find to begin with.

Councilman Kacperski asked how we would enforce this if they are that difficult to find.

Town Manager John Giles stated that we would require proof of the annual treatments during the renewal periods for the licenses as well as during pre-rental inspections we would require proof of the treatments.

Councilman Jaremchuk and Councilwoman Personti both stated that they would support such an ordinance and that we should potentially include cockroaches in this.

Town Manager John Giles then stated that the Code Enforcement Department has been out to a property located on Second Avenue regarding numerous dogs and dog breeding. They went to the property and was refused entry to the Code Enforcement Department but allowed the SPCA into the property. The Town is working on a search warrant to allow Code into the property but it will not be available until the following week, the owner has agreed to let the code officer in on Wednesday but we are trying to get into the property prior to that.

Finance

Town Manager John Giles presented the written report. He then stated that during a budget meeting during the day he was informed of a problem that the Town is facing in addition to needing to balance the budget; the Town will experience a Cash Flow problem at the end of this year. There is not currently enough unrestricted cash in the bank to allow the remaining bills to be paid as well as pre-paid insurance bills through the tax bill influx during September. The Town will not have enough cash to cover July, therefore we will be freezing all un-necessary spending until further notice and there will be drastic spending restrictions during the next few months.

Councilman Jaremchuk asked about a line of credit during that time through M & T Bank.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he is hoping that it does not come to that and that he believes that this should be the Town's last resort.

Councilman Kacperski asked if we could open the line of credit now and have it available should it be necessary.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Kacperski to have the Town Manager gather information regarding opening a line of credit and what amount would be necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

VOTE: 4-3 Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – No, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – No, Mayor – Yes

Town Manager John Giles stated that he would have all of that information ready for the June 2, 2012 budget hearing.

Public Safety

Chief Laura Giles presented the written report and added that the Officers will begin the Click-it or Ticket campaign on May 14, 2012 through May 28, 2012.

Councilman Burg asked when the final season officer begins.

Chief Laura Giles stated that they final season begins during the next week.

Public Works

Town Manager John Giles presented the written report.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John Giles presented the written report. He announced that the Students of the All Saints Catholic School will be presenting a replica of the Town made completely from Recycled Materials on Friday, May 18, 2012 at 10:00am at the School if anyone is interested in going. In addition, the Town will be spending some money to host an Ice Cream Party for the 4th Grade Class as a thank you for an Earth Day Project they completed at the Town Hall. Sunday, June 10, 2012 Corpus Christi Church will be hosting its first annual Feast Day; they are asking permission to hold the event and stated he would like to suggest that Council allow the closing of New Road from Sanders Road to the Gymnasium to allow the members to pass freely during the event from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Councilman Kacperski asked for a status update regarding the 2012 Street Improvement Program.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he is waiting for approved contracts from the State of Delaware because we cannot allow the contractor to start construction until we receive approval from the Budget Office.

At this time there was a brief 5 minute recess.

At this time the meeting was called back to order and it was noted that Councilman Moore had left the meeting.

Councilman Jaremchuk presented information regarding the potential purchase of iPads for the Mayor and Council for the use of budgets and Council Agendas and other uses.

Town Manager John Giles stated that while the financial costs seem extreme the general advantage to these systems is fantastic, it allows the council members to stay informed and allows residents to contact council members and that the overall operation of the Town would be smoother and more accurate. He feels that this is a purchase that may be over due.

Councilwoman Personti asked why this could not be proposed as part of the capital budget instead of a separate purchase from the budget.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to purchase 7 iPads as described in the memorandum submitted by Town Manager John Giles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 3-3 with 1 Absent Motion Defeated

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – No

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to include the purchase of 7 iPads to the Capital Budget for FY 2012-2013. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

BUDGET REVIEW:

Town Manager John Giles presented the revised budget and announced that the difference is now \$106,978.00.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he has a number of contracts that will expire in conjunction with the beginning of the new budget and that he needs answers from the Mayor and Council on which contracts to renew and which contracts to open for Public Bid.

Emergency System Service, Inc. – Emergency Generator Maintenance

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the emergency generator contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Paoli Services – Landscape Maintenance Contract

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the Landscape Maintenance Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman McKewen.

Councilwoman Personti stated that she would like to see if we cannot get a lower price pending budget allowances.

VOTE: 3-3 with 1 Absent Motion Defeated

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – No

Town Manager John Giles asked if this should be placed for public bid or if the council is not going to consider this contract at all.

Councilwoman Personti and Mayor Norkavage stated that they would like to see bids and see if we can't get a cheaper contract.

Delmarva Communications Company, Inc. – Police Radios

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the Police Radio Contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

A-1 Sanitation – Portable Toilets in Fairgrounds and Vilone Parks

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk renew the A-1 Sanitation Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Lawns and Moore – Highway Median Maintenance

Councilwoman Personti clarified that Councilman Moore is no longer affiliated with Lawns and Moore.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to renew the Highway Median Maintenance Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman McKewen.

VOTE: 5-1 with 1 Absent Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – Yes, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – Yes

Digital Office Solutions – Copier Maintenance

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk renew the Copier Maintenance Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Delcollo Security – Security for Town Hall and the PW Shop

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage renew the Security Contracts. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Elsmere Recreation Center Lease Agreement

Town Manager John Giles stated that he is proposing a 3% increase to their current contract. He stated that they have not received an increase during the last several years and that they have even experienced a decrease in rent because they have turned over 2 ½ rooms for Town use and no longer have any rooms located on the 3rd Floor of Town Hall.

There was a discussion imposing a larger increase due to the lack of increases during the last several years.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to renew the Elsmere Recreation Center Lease with a 3% Increase. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 4-2 with 1 Absent Motion carried

1st District – No, 2nd District – No, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – Yes, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – Yes

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to increase the lease by an additional 2% increase bringing the total increase to 5%. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE: 4-2 with 1 Absent Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – No, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – No,
5th District – Yes, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – Yes

Greater Oak Grove Senior Center Lease Agreement

Town Manager John Giles stated that he proposes to renew the lease agreement with the Senior Center with no increase; however, he would like to take away their ability to use a room on the 3rd floor known as the Exercise Room so that it may be used as a storage room by the Elsmere Police Department. He stated that the two rooms on the 3rd Floor are used a maximum of a 3 hours total per week.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the lease agreement with the Oak Grove Senior Center with no rent increase however, they will no longer be able to use one room located on the 3rd Floor known as the exercise room. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

Councilman Burg asked if this would negatively affect the Town's ability to use the center should the budget for the Tree Lighting Ceremony be approved.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he believes that there is provision in the current lease which allows for this use and if that provision does not exist it will during the renewal process.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

ASCAP – License to play music

Town Manager John Giles stated that this license is to provide music during Town events as well as while residents are on hold on the phone system.

Councilman Jaremchuk stated that he believes that this is not a necessary cost and that the Town can risk this contract.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to renew the ASCAP license. The motion was seconded by Councilman McKewen.

VOTE: 3-3 with 1 Absent Motion Defeated

1st District – No, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – No, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – Yes

At this time a lengthy discussion occurred regarding whether music would not be provided at Town Events and how the Town cannot legally provide the music and that Council cannot order employees to do illegal acts.

Town Manager John Giles stated that if we play music we will be targeted after having a license and no longer carrying said license and that we would be going against legal advice given by the Town solicitor.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the ASCAP license. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Waste Management – Solid Waste Collection Contract

Town Manager John Giles stated that he spoke with broker who deals with garbage collection who stated that he believes that he could save the Town 10% of the existing contract however did not submit any names or contracts for proposals. The current Waste Management Contract has already expired and we are working on an extension that was given through the end of the Fiscal Year, we also have two three year possible extension periods left on the current contract and they have proposed a 5 Year contract.

It was discussed that there are currently no complaints regarding the contract with Waste Management.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to renew the Waste Management Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-favor Motion carried

Town Manager John Giles stated that his solution to the budget is to either cut garbage collection or to increase property taxes to compensate for the cost of garbage collection. He stated that if the Town were to raise taxes by \$185.00 it would cover the cost of providing garbage collection and free up additional funding for street repairs, contingency and funding the existing Elsmere Police Pension Plan. He stated that the changes made to the Pension Plans has made a significant change however, funds must still be allocate to the existing Pension Plan or the auditor will issue a letter of going concern which will remove the town's ability to get lines of credit. In addition, no street repairs have been proposed as part of the budget and the streets are falling apart. There is no other way to come up with the funds for this other than to increase taxes to cover this cost.

Councilman Burg asked if the proposed increase was per year, citing that hypothetically we could increase taxes by \$100.00 per year which would be equivalent to \$8.33 per month.

Councilman Burg asked the resident who were present what they thought regarding paying for garbage or paying increase taxes.

Mrs. Linda Sommermann stated that she would rather see the tax increase because it is deductible on her annual taxes versus having to pay a fee to the garbage company which is not deductible.

Mrs. Amy Olga stated that even if you raise the taxes by \$190.00 it equals \$15.00 per month which she believes is a reasonable cost for garbage collection.

Mr. Tim Clark of Birch Avenue stated that he would still be paying less than he would if he paid for garbage himself and would be able to write the cost off on his taxes.

Mr. Ron Russo stated that he is not sure that the residents would look at this increase as saving money because they already believe that they are paying for garbage, he agrees with the increase but he believes that this increase should be proposed as such to say that a percentage of your increase would go towards garbage collection and a percentage would go towards street improvements, etc.

Chief Laura Giles stated that if the Town decided not to provide garbage collection it would create a nightmare because everyone would have different garbage collection dates and it would be difficult to regulate whose garbage is out early whereas, with providing garbage we are able to control the garbage situation.

Councilman Kacperski asked what the tax increases have been during the last two budgets.

Finance Director Joseph Schulcz stated that the Council has raised the base tax by \$100.00 per unit over two years (\$44.00 the first year and \$56.00 the second).

Town Manager John Giles stated that he also believes that the Town residents also receive more services than residents who live in New Castle County. New Castle County does not provide garbage collection or snow removal and also cover a much large area with their police department.

Councilman Jaremchuk asked that the Town Manager work up a proposal that indicates a \$190.00 tax increase per base unit as well as what amounts of each increase would go toward which projects (roads, garbage, budget, etc.) for the June 2, 2012 Budget Hearing.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

District 1 – None

District 2 – Councilman Burg announced that he has been going to the businesses located within the Town to solicit donations to help fund the remaining portion of the Independence Day Celebration. They have visited 37 businesses and received promises to give, in addition they have already received \$2,300.00. In addition Ad-Craft Signs was unable to donate a cash amount but have volunteered to make a banner to hang at the Park thanking the businesses who have donated.

Councilman Burg discussed the Feast Day at Corpus Christi and asked the council's opinions on allowing the church to use a trailer from the Public Works Department to transport large items for the event as well as allowing them to use some of the children's games that the Town owns for the Independence Day Celebration.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to loan Corpus Christi Church to use one travel trailer and children's games for their Feast Day Celebration. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jaremchuk.

VOTE: 5-1 with 1 Absent Motion carried

1st District – Yes, 2nd District – Yes, 3rd District – Yes, 4th District – Yes,
5th District – No, 6th District – Absent, Mayor – Yes

District 3 – None

District 4 – None

District 5 – None

District 6 – None

Mayor – None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Absent All-in-Favor Motion carried

These minutes summarize agenda and other issues discussed at this Council Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tapes may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE
MAYOR

JOANN I. PERSONTI
SECRETARY